

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated April 2, 2004. Claims 1-18 are pending, with claims 1-11 being in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1-11 to clarify the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the application at, for example, page 16, line 17 through page 23, line 6.

Claims 9 and 10 were objected to as appearing to be substantially identical.

By this Amendment, the claims have been amended to clarify the claimed invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 9 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,279 to Fukushima et al. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,936,743 to Satoh. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoh in view of Fukushima. Claims 3-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoh and Fukushima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,476,935 to Fujino. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoh in view of

Fukushima. Claims 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Satoh in view of Fukushima and Fujino.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1-11, as amended, are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application relates to a facsimile monitoring system for monitoring a facsimile device from one or more of a plurality of external terminals (for example, personal computers). The facsimile device has an address storing section for registering network device addresses of selected devices authorized to monitor the facsimile device. Each of the personal computers is provided with monitoring software for monitoring a state of the facsimile device. When a terminal device communicates to the facsimile device an inquiry of the state of the facsimile device, the facsimile device compares a network device address of the terminal device with the registered network device addresses stored in the address storing section, in order to determine whether the inquiring terminal device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device. If the inquiring device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device the facsimile device notifies the inquiring device the state of the facsimile device.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest such a facsimile monitoring system.

Fukushima, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a conventional facsimile machine adapted with a feature for retrieving and displaying, on a display portion of the facsimile machine, information regarding a facsimile transmission already performed. Fukushima is not directed at monitoring a facsimile device from a terminal device, and in response to an inquiry of the state of the facsimile device from the terminal device, checking whether the inquiring terminal device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device, and if the inquiring device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device notifying the inquiring device the state of the facsimile device.

Satoh is directed to a system which includes a terminal coupled through its serial port to a serial port of a facsimile apparatus to receive report data from the facsimile apparatus. The terminal may include an interface through which the user can select to view reports (such as transmission completion and error reports) which are generated in the normal course of operation by the facsimile apparatus.

Satoh is not directed to allowing terminal devices to monitor the state of a facsimile device through a network. For example, Applicants do not find teaching or suggestion in Satoh that the facsimile device has an address storing section for registering network device addresses of selected devices authorized to monitor the facsimile device, or that when a terminal device communicates to the facsimile device an inquiry

of the state of the facsimile device, the facsimile device compares a network device address of the terminal device with the registered network device addresses stored in the address storing section, in order to determine whether the inquiring terminal device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device.

Fujino, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a facsimile apparatus adapted with a feature for connecting a plurality of lines of data channels. Fujino was cited in the Office Action as disclosing allowing the operator to start and stop transmission which purportedly corresponds to begin and abort or delete a transmission and to enter the destination number or address, and detect busy lines.

However, Fujino, like Fukushima, is not concerned with monitoring the state of the facsimile device remotely from an external terminal device.

Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a facsimile device monitoring system for monitoring a facsimile device from one or more of a plurality of terminal devices, wherein the facsimile device has an address storing section for registering network device addresses of selected devices authorized to monitor the facsimile device, and when a terminal device communicates to the facsimile device an inquiry of the state of the facsimile device, the facsimile device compares a network device address of the terminal device with the registered network device addresses stored in the address storing

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section, in order to determine whether the inquiring terminal device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device, and if the inquiring device is authorized to monitor the facsimile device the facsimile device notifies the inquiring device the state of the facsimile device, as provided by the claimed invention.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1-11, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400